

To much of the American public, this whole process was a long-running, 50-million-dollar negative ad built on personal attacks, the likes of which Americans regret and reject.

I know this belief is shared by thousands of South Dakotans and millions of Americans who hold widely varying views of what the outcome of the impeachment proceeding should have been—conviction or acquittal, removal or continued service by the President to the conclusion of his term.

What are the elements, the component parts, of this political process that so many Americans judge to be merely an ugly spectacle increasingly unworthy of their participation? What is making Americans so cynical that they are voting in record-low numbers and tuning out the government meant to serve them?

Surely they must be concerned about the increased use, and misuse, of the legal process in our political process. They are no longer certain they can distinguish the proper application of the law to address real wrongdoing properly before the courts from the hijacking of the law to bludgeon political opponents and extend the battlefield of political attack.

In just ten years, we have seen the public careers of three House Speakers, representing both political parties, destroyed by scandal. As the process has escalated, Independent Counsels have pursued members of Presidents' cabinets—of both parties—and then, the President of the United States himself.

We have watched what we all acknowledge as "the politics of personal destruction" threaten to devour our democratic ideals.

We can, and we will, argue the merits of the Independent Counsel statute when it comes up for reauthorization this session. We can, and we will, continue to pursue those who are corrupt, who use their offices for personal gain, or who otherwise deserve punishment.

But the law must be preserved as an instrument for the rendering of justice, not manipulated to serve as another readily accessible weapon to be used against political adversaries.

And the law should not become a substitute for elections. Political choices in this country must remain in the hands of the people of this country, not conveyed to prosecutors and lawyers.

It is not the law's fault that there has been a hardening of position and a commitment to win at any cost. To paraphrase our former colleague Dale Bumpers' now famous declaration in his presentation to the Senate, "Sometimes we want to win too badly."

It is time for elected officials to ask themselves, "Does anyone in this country really feel as though they have been winners in this seemingly interminable process of investigation, media spectacle and impeachment controversy?"

I hope we can keep Senator Bumpers' words in mind and honor each other with the same degree of commitment

that we bring to our disagreements. I hope we can persuade without spinning; that we can argue without shouting; that we can dissent without dividing.

We can be passionate in our beliefs without prosecuting those who believe differently.

There were no winners in this impeachment process, but there were plenty of losers. There are good people who have accumulated thousands of dollars in legal bills as a result of the years of investigating the President. There are good people—on both sides of the aisle—whose private lives will be never be private again. There are people whose reputations have been battered and beaten.

I hope we can keep those people in mind and call for—indeed, insist upon—a truce in the political wars. We need now to think about what we owe ourselves, each other and the public as we move—and I hope without further delay—to address the true agenda of the American people.

#### SCOTT BATES, LEGISLATIVE CLERK OF THE SENATE

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to pay tribute to a fellow Arkansan, Scott Bates, who was struck and killed by a car on Friday. He will be severely missed by all of us.

Scott was born in Pine Bluff, AR, where he was active in church and the Boy Scouts, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He developed a love of politics, which he followed to Washington, D.C. For twenty-six years, he performed dedicated service to the Senate, the last eight as the Senate's Legislative Clerk, working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth operation of this institution. Scott was perhaps most visible, or audible, in that role because of his deep, resonant voice, calling the roll or reading legislation.

But Scott was much more than a dignifying voice to the Senate. He was a husband, a father, a colleague, and a friend to many. I spent a lot of time in the last two years with him, learning the ways of the Senate. Scott and I would reminisce about our common Arkansas roots and our mutual love for the Razorbacks. He was a man of honor and humility, an encouragement to both staffers and Senators.

We pray for his wife Ricki. May the Lord grant her a swift recovery from her surgery. We pray for his three children, Lori, Lisa, and Paul, and for his family in Arkansas. May the Lord bring healing to them in their time of loss.

We grieve and we mourn his passing, for we know that the Senate and the world will be a better place because of his life.

#### TRIBUTE TO LINDA NERSESIAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to lament the

too early death on December 19, after a four-year long battle with breast cancer, of a former staff member and friend, Linda Nersesian, and to offer my heartfelt sympathy to her husband Robert Rae Gordon; her two children, nine year old George Raeburn Gordon, and six year old Louise Grace Gordon; her parents, Elsie Louise Nazarian and Serop S. Nersesian; her brother Robert S. Nersesian; and the many, many friends and associates in the Congress and in Washington who will miss her greatly.

Linda served in the Senate for six and one-half years, from August 4, 1980 to January 5, 1987. She began her Senate career in the office of Senator Dole where she worked on energy and environmental issues. Linda left Senator Dole's office in April of 1981 to join my staff as a staff attorney on the Subcommittee on Agency Administration of the Judiciary Committee, which I then chaired. On the Subcommittee, Linda worked on a number of my highest legislative priorities. She consistently demonstrated initiative, intelligence, and savvy.

When I became Chairman of the Subcommittee on Aging of the Labor and Human Resources Committee at the beginning of the 98th Congress in 1983, the strong leadership qualities that Linda consistently demonstrated in her work on the Administrative Practices Subcommittee made her the perfect choice to serve as chief counsel and staff director of the Subcommittee on Aging. In that capacity, she organized the office, recruited a staff, and oversaw the work of the Subcommittee through 1983. She was also responsible for advising me on major bills relating to pharmaceutical drugs which were then under consideration by the Committee.

In late 1983, Linda once again seemed the perfect choice for a position of major responsibility, this time as the chief counsel and staff director of the Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure. In that capacity, she was responsible for the child Pornography Act. She also worked on what became the 1986 amendments to the False Claims Act and the Equal Access to Justice Act. And she worked on defense procurement fraud. These were among my highest legislative and oversight priorities at that time.

After serving as chief counsel of the Subcommittee until January 21, 1985, Senator Dole asked Linda to be the assistant secretary of the Senate. She served in that capacity until January 5, 1987, when she left the Senate to become legislative counsel to the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association. In due course, Linda again assumed greater responsibility, becoming the Association's vice president for government relations, a position she held until she left to build her own consulting firm, the Columbia Consulting Group.

Mr. President, Linda Nersesian was a unique and remarkable individual. Her